

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A voice control system for operating home electrical appliances, said system comprising:

a home agent server (HAS) configured to be installed in a house and connected to the home electrical appliances for controlling operation of the home electrical appliances;

a microphone and a speaker linked to said home agent server through an in-house network;

a voice recognition unit configured to recognize a user's voice request received at the microphone;

a transaction processing program (TP) executable at the HAS and configured to manage the home electrical appliances, said TP program having an instruction interpreting module configured to prepare from the voice request a particular instruction indicating a destined appliance and a method for controlling the destined appliance, and to provide an output command for controlling the destined appliance in accordance with the particular instruction;

a plurality of human presence sensors configured to be installed in different rooms of the house and linked to said HAS, said plurality of human presence sensors configured to sense a presence of the user and to provide a detection signal indicative of a particular one of the rooms where the ~~user is present and linked to said HAS~~ presence of the user is sensed;

and

a room locating module configured to identify the particular room based on the detection signal, and to instruct to issue ~~[[the]]~~ a voice message confirming an acceptance of

the user's request or a completion of the particular instruction from the speaker belonging to the identified room, said room locating module included in one of said TP program and said HAS.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said output command is a control signal configured to control the destined appliance for control thereof.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said TP program is written into a mobile agent program configured to move from the HAS to a local computer terminal included in the destined appliance in response to said output command such that it can be executed at the local computer terminal for control of the destined appliance.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said TP program includes a migration module configured to analyze the particular instruction to seek an associated address of said destined appliance, and to move the TP program itself to the local computer terminal of said destined appliance.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said TP program includes a voice recognition module configured to define said voice recognition unit.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein

one of said TP program and said HAS includes:

a text composer module configured to provide a text associated with a particular control of the electrical appliance; and

a speech synthesis module configured to convert the text into ~~[[a]]~~ the voice message to be issued from said speaker ~~for confirmation of the acceptance of the user's voice request and/or the completion of the requested control.~~

Claim 7 (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said HAS is provided with a communication interface configured to link the HAS to said in-house network and to an outer information network for intercommunication with other sites linked through the information network,

said HAS further including an address list configured to store addresses of the appliances and sites which are sought by the MAP running on the HAS to designate a destined appliance or site where an intended process demanded by the user's request is to be executed,

said migration module allowing to move the MAP itself to the destined appliance or site for execution of the MAP at the destined appliance to achieve the intended process demanded by the user's request.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 2, wherein one of said TP program and said HAS further includes a voice locating module configured to judge a place of the user issuing the user's voice request received at the

microphone, and to instruct to issue the voice message from the speaker belonging to the located place.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said HAS includes a personal information table configured to store a relation between individual users and the appliances allocated to be accessible by the individual users, said TP program further including:

a user identification module configured to identify a particular user from the user's voice request,

an access permission module configured to select the appliance allocated to the identified user with reference to the personal information table and to limit the TP program to the execution for the allocated appliance.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said system includes a plurality of dedicated transaction processing (TP) programs configured to be allocated respectively to individual users for limiting one or more of the appliances accessible by the users,

said HAS including a user identification module configured to identify the user from the user's voice request, to select one of the dedicated TP programs allocated to the identified user, and to allow the dedicated TP program to be executed.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The system as set forth in claim 3, wherein

said system includes a plurality of dedicated transaction processing (TP) programs configured to be allocated respectively to individual users for limiting one or more of the appliances accessible by the users,

said HAS including a user identification module configured to identify the user from the user's voice request, to select one of the dedicated TP programs allocated to the identified user, and to allow the dedicated TP program to move to the destined appliance to be executed at the destined ~~appliance~~ appliance.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said HAS includes said voice recognition unit.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The system as set forth in claim 13, wherein said HAS further includes:

means for providing a text associated with a particular control of the electrical appliance;

means for converting the text into ~~[[a]]~~ the voice message to be issued from said speaker ~~for confirmation of the acceptance of the user's voice request and/or the completion of the requested control.~~

Claim 15 (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said HAS is provided with a communication interface configured to link the HAS to an outer information network for intercommunication with sites linked through the information network,

said HAS including a site address list configured to store addresses of the sites which are referenced by the TP program to seek a destined site where an intended process demanded by the user's request is to be executed, whereby the TP is executed to communicate with the destined site for obtaining services provided by the destined site.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 6, wherein said system further includes a personal computer equipped with a display in addition to the microphone and the speaker,

said personal computer being linked to the HAS through the in-house network for transmitting the user's request received at the microphone to the TP program running on the HAS,

said TP program having a function of transmitting the text provided by said text composer module to the display of the personal computer.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said HAS includes a phone interface to a public telephone network for intercommunication with a mobile phone,

said mobile phone carrying a specific transaction processing (TP) program ~~which is a mobile agent program~~ configured to move from the mobile phone to said HAS or said local computer terminal to be executable at said HAS or said local computer terminal,

said specific TP program, when running on the mobile phone, accepting a user's voice request at the mobile phone for managing said appliances, said specific TP program including:

a voice recognition module configured to recognize a user's voice request received at the mobile phone,

an instruction interpreting module configured to prepare from the voice request a particular instruction indicating a destined appliance and a method for controlling the destined appliance[[:]], and

a migration module which, in response to the particular instruction, moves the specific TP program to said HAS or said local computer terminal for achieving the method for the destined appliance.

Claim 18 (original): The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said microphone and speaker are mounted in a switch box which is installed in the house.

Claim 19 (original): The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said microphone and speaker are mounted in a ceiling receptacle installed in the house for connection with a lighting fixture.

Claim 20 (original): The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said microphone and speaker are mounted in a lighting fixture defining the home electrical appliance.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said HAS is packed into a home information and power distribution center which is provided with:

a distributor connected between a utility line and in-house branched power lines leading to the appliances;

a telephone interface configured for connection between an in-house telephone line and a public telephone network; and

an information interface configured for connection between an in-house information network and an external information network,

said in-house network being realized by said power lines which allows the output command to be transmitted therethrough.